



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,014	03/26/2004	David G. Wild	CV0330 NP	9570
26079	7590	03/01/2010	EXAMINER	
CONVATEC INC. 100 HEADQUARTERS PARK DRIVE SKILLMAN, NJ 08558			OSTRUP, CLINTON T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	3771			
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
03/01/2010	PAPER			

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/811,014	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WILD ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> CLINTON OSTRUP	<b>Art Unit</b> 3771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/5/09 & 12/3/09.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-3,5,7,8,10,11,14,19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5,7,8,10,11,14,19 and 20 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 3/26/04, 3/31/06 & 4/22/09 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 27, 2009 has been entered.
2. As directed by the amendment, claims 1 and 20 have been amended and claims 4, 6, 9, 12-13, 15-18 are cancelled. Thus, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 19 and 20 are presently pending in this application.

***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Regarding claim 1 the drawings are incomplete in that they do not show how the conduit connected to the controller is connected to the inflatable sleeve. Moreover, the drawings do not show the gaiter cell, mid-calf cell, and upper cell, which are claimed to consist of only one compartment, wrapping fully around the lower limb.

Regarding claim 2, the "microprocessor control system and a pump" are not shown in the drawings.

Regarding claim 3, the "at least one pressure sensor" that "is associated with said sleeve" is not shown in the drawings.

Regarding claim 10, the drawings are incomplete in that they do not show a battery or battery compartment on the controller.

Regarding claim 11, the drawings are incomplete in that they do not show a sensor monitoring each cell.

Regarding claim 20, the drawings are incomplete in that they do not show how the conduit attached to the sleeve is attached to the controller to control the flow of fluid in the device.

4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11,14 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barak (6,494,852) and Taheri (4,624,244) and further in view of Calderon et al. (6,589,194).

Barak discloses a compression device for the limb of a mobile patient (fig. 1) comprising: an inflatable sleeve (1 of figure 2) adapted to surround the limb; a conduit (4) attached to said sleeve for delivering fluid to said sleeve; and a portable, wearable controller (3 of figure 1) or control unit ((68) and (col. 6, lines 63-67)) attached to said conduit that generates and controls the flow of fluid in the device; wherein the sleeve includes a leg cuff and a foot cuff (figure 2); the leg cuff has three cells on the lower sleeve including: a gaiter cell (2) adapted to wrap around the lower limb in the region closest to the ankle, a mid-calf cell (2) adapted to wrap around the lower limb above the region occupied by the gaiter cell and an upper cell (2) adapted to wrap around the lower limb in the region between the mid-calf cell and the knee (best seen in figure 2), except that it does not explicitly disclose that the sleeve includes consists of a leg cuff and a foot cuff and the leg cuff consists of only three cells and each cell consisting of only one compartment wherein the cells are adapted to wrap fully around the lower limb.

However, Barak teaches that "the invention is also intended for use on any body limb such as a foot, a part of a leg" (col. 4, lines 14-15) and "the number of cells in the sleeve can vary, according to the desired treatment" (col. 10, lines 34-35).

Taheri teaches a similar compression device having a sleeve with a leg cuff (27) and a foot cuff (11); the leg cuff consists of three cells: a gaiter cell (B) adapted to (partially) wrap around the lower limb in the region closest to the ankle, a mid-calf cell (C) adapted to (partially) wrap around the lower limb above the region occupied by the gaiter cell and an upper cell (D) adapted to (partially) wrap around the lower limb in the region between the mid-calf cell and the knee with each cell having only one compartment (bladders inside B, C, and D) for the treatment of diseased leg veins which result in venous hypertension. See: figures 1-3 & col. 1, lines 13-27.

Calderon teaches a leg cuff (figure 1) with cells (2B, 2C & 2D) that wrap fully around the lower limb of a patient. See: col. 2, lines 58-68; col. 3, lines 1-22 and figure 1.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to limit the Barak device to include only a leg cuff and a foot cuff, as taught by Taheri, in order to obtain a device that could be used to treat the lower limb of a person having diseased leg veins and used cells that wrap fully around the lower limb of a patient which would eliminate the need for accessories such as additional wraps and straps.

Since Barak already teaches that "various changes, omissions to the form and detail thereof may be made therein" (col. 10, lines 38-40), and Taheri suggest forming a

lower leg treatment device, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to eliminate the cell of the thigh, to form a lower leg treatment device as taught by Taheri and Calderon. Moreover, since it has been held that omission of an element and its function in a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Karlson*, 136 USPQ 184.

Regarding claims 2-3, 5, 7, Barak discloses the controller comprises a microprocessor control system (control unit 68, col. 6, lines 63-67) and a pump (pump unit 60, col. 6, lines 22-33); wherein at least one pressure sensor 62/63 or pressure monitoring means (col. 6, lines 37-38) is associated with said sleeve; wherein said sleeve is low profile and discrete (figure 1); said leg and foot cuffs are anatomically shaped to provide compression on those parts of the leg or foot which have the greatest effect on blood flow (best seen in figure 2).

Regarding claims 10-11 and 19, Barak discloses that the controller is battery operated (rechargeable battery pack 67, col. 6, lines 26-28); wherein each cell is monitored by a sensor ((62/63 (col. 6, lines 37-38)); and a method of preventing or treating edema or DVT (col. 2, lines 42-49) comprising applying a compression device of claim 1 to the limb of a mobile patient.

Regarding claims 8 and 20, Barak discloses the claimed inventions having all the features except for a sock interposed between the sleeve and the limb. Having a patient wear a sock, when using the device, would be obvious to a skilled artisan. A sock would prevent direct contact of the device with the patient's skin and would

therefore prevent direct contamination of the user's skin, and/or the transfer of bodily fluids to, or from, the user to the device. Moreover, a sock would help prevent skin irritation, skin shear and chaffing at the contact surface between the device and the skin of the limb during use.

Regarding claim 14, Barak discloses the claimed inventions having all the features except it is silent regarding the cells may be pressurized to the same or different predetermined pressures. However, Barak teaches (figure 5) a pressure system (50) that has a range of pressure of 50-100 mmHg, and therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to operate the Bark's pressure system, such that the cells may be pressurized to the same or different predetermined pressures, for the purpose of providing a variety of compression therapy being applied on different body parts of the patient suitable to the patient's condition.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 19 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. G. Linnane et al. (2006/0135894); Dye (4,938,208); and Dye (5,186,163) all of which disclose compression devices for the leg.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CLINTON OSTRUP whose telephone number is (571)272-5559. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Clinton Ostrup/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3771

/Justine R Yu/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3771